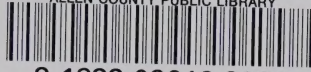


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Souvenir program, Hendricks
cabin dedication

HENDRICKS CABIN
DEDICATION

Allen County Historical Society
Hendricks
June 2, 1982

✓



SOUVENIR PROGRAM

HENDRICKS CABIN DEDICATION

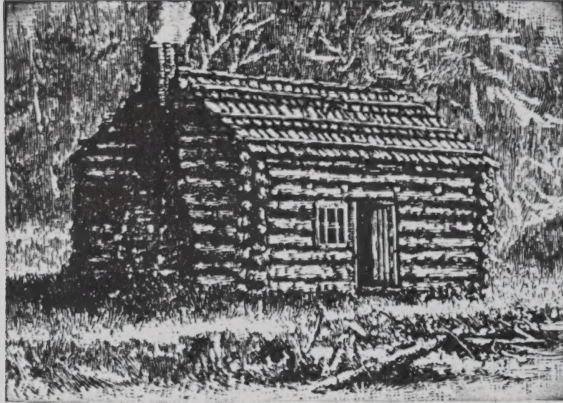
Shelby County Historical Society

Shelbyville

July 4, 1962

Gift of Miss Nettie Hendricks

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Reconstructed from original logs of Hendricks Family Home –
Built in 1822.

Mrs. Walter Wintin is the author of the articles in this program, "The
Illustrious Hendricks Family" and "Early Shelby County".

JUL • 62



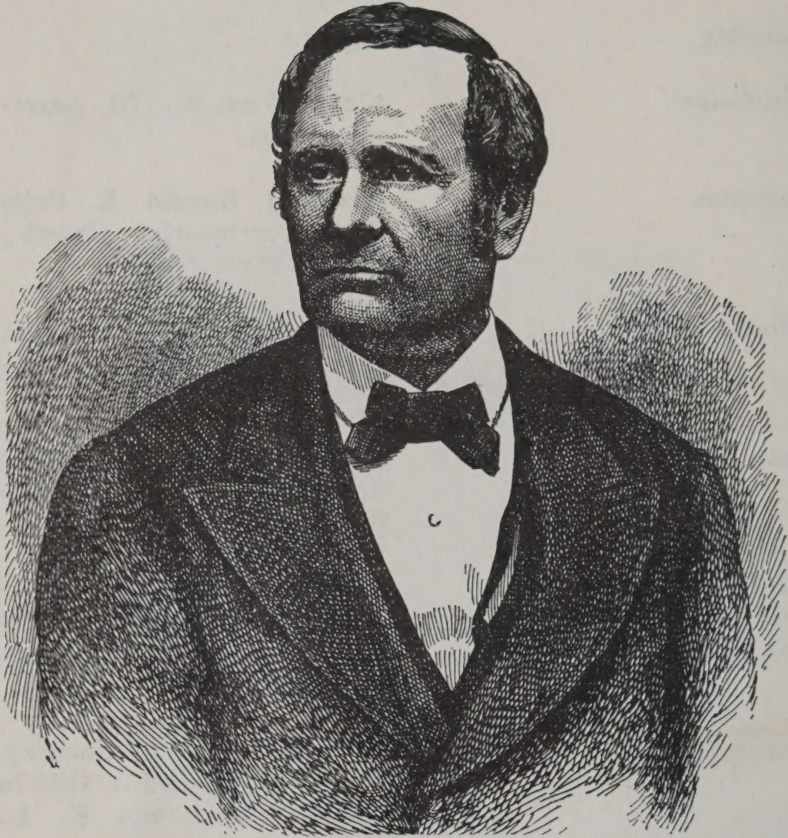
Reconstruction of Hendricks
Family Home, Shelby County,
Ind. This picture taken
by L. Russell Pitts,
President Shelby County
Historical Society. He lives
at Manilla, Indiana

NOTE: Backside of photo
on previous page.

PROGRAM

Assembly	Bugler
Post Colors	Victory Post No. 70, American Legion
Invocation	Reverend Ronald E. Felty First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville
Welcome	L. Russell Pitts, <i>President</i> , Shelby County Historical Society
Music	Chorus, Shelby County Home Demonstration Clubs, Mrs. Ruth Green, <i>Director</i>
"140th Anniversary of the Establishment of Shelby- ville as the County Seat"	Major General John S. Ander- son, <i>Adjutant General of In- diana and former Mayor of Shelbyville</i>
Music	Quartette, Missouri Harmony Class (established in 1835 in Hanover Township) E. L. Frazier, <i>Director</i>
"Thomas A. Hendricks, A Great American"	Honorable Henry F. Schricker, <i>Former Governor of Indiana</i>
Unveiling of Plaque	V. B. Hungate, <i>Vice-Presi- dent</i> Shelby County Historical Society
Dedication of the Hendricks Cabin	Mrs. Walter Wintin, <i>Curator</i> Shelby County Historical So- ciety
Retrieve Colors	Victory Post No. 70, Ameri- can Legion

Dismissal



THOMAS A. HENDRICKS, 1819-1885

Hoosier statesman, patriot, and staunch defender of constitutional government. The Hendricks family moved to Shelby County in 1822 where Hendricks attended local schools. He graduated from Hanover College, 1841, was admitted to the bar in 1843, and practiced law in Shelbyville. Hendricks served two terms as State Legislator; U. S. Representative, 1851-55; U. S. Senator, 1863-69; Governor of Indiana, 1873-77; Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate, 1876; Elected Vice-President with Cleveland in 1884; and died in office, 1885. This cabin, reconstructed from the original logs of the Hendricks Homestead, is dedicated to his memory.

Shelby County Historical Society, 1962

Text of Plaque on the Hendricks Cabin.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS HENDRICKS FAMILY

Shelby County had not yet come into being the 3rd day of March 1821, a day that was of great importance to it in later years for it was on that day that Major John Hendricks entered 320 acres of land, the north half of Section 5, Township 12, North, Range 6 East.

Major Hendricks, so titled by his election to that rank in the Ohio Militia was living near Zanesville when the United States acquired the new Purchase in 1818. A cabin of round logs housed the family consisting of the Major, his wife and three small sons. Mrs. Hendricks was formerly Jane Thomson. Ancestors of both Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks came to America before the Revolutionary War and members of both families served in it. They were highly esteemed for their intelligence, integrity and enterprise in the eastern states where they lived.

William Hendricks, brother of John, came to Indiana in its early days of statehood, soon became a leader and was elected the second governor of the state in 1821. Encouraged by the success of William his brothers John and Thomas followed to the new state locating at at Madison in 1820. A year later they came to the new territory. Whether by accident or design, Thomas settled in what is now Decatur County and became one of the founders of Greensburg while John came on to what is today Shelby County to become one of the founders of Shelbyville.

John Hendricks cabin stood on the south bank of Little Blue River and on the Michigan Road when that thoroughfare was located a few years later. It was noted for hospitality, traveling ministers and circuit court followers usually stopped there. Some years later Mr. Hendricks built a brick house across the Michigan Road from the cabin.

After taking up residence in Shelby County the Hendricks family was increased by the birth of two other boys and two girls. Two boys died in infancy. Abram, the oldest son, became a Presbyterian minister, served the local church many years before going on to wider fields. He was an alumnus of Hanover college being one of the first ministers to obtain his education west of the Allegheny Mountains. John served as Shelby County postmaster. James was a lieutenant in the Union army and married a nurse who cared for "the boys of the Potomoc" for the four years of the war.

Thomas A. Hendricks was a precocious boy who had a way of repeating his lessons to himself on the way to school much to the

amusement of his less scholarly classmates. It is told that he attended trials at the court house when he was twelve years old. He also graduated from Hanover college, read law in the office of Stephen Major, father of Charles Major. Then entered law school at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, of which his uncle, Judge Alexander Thomson, was head. Returning to Shelbyville in 1843 he passed the examination and was admitted to the bar.

In 1845 he married Eliza Morgan of North Bend, Ohio. Their only child was a son Morgan, who was born in 1848 and died in 1851.

In 1848 Thomas A. Hendricks was elected to the state legislature where he was a member of the committee supporting a bill to make all tuition in public schools free. In 1850 he served with distinction in the second Constitutional Convention.

In 1851 he was elected U.S. Representative from what was then the 5th District. It was during the campaign for this office that he earned the title "log-roller," a descriptive term that has since been given those who mingle with their constituents while campaigning for office.

He was appointed to the General Land Office by President Pierce in 1855 and by President Buchanan in 1859.

From 1863 to 1869 he served as U.S. Senator.

He was elected Governor of Indiana in 1872 and practiced law in Indianapolis.

In 1876 he was nominated for the vice-presidency with Samuel J. Tilden for president. It was claimed that they were elected but defrauded.

In 1884 he ran again, this time with Grover Cleveland. They were elected, he served nine months of the term of office, dying on November 25, 1885.

The Shelbyville newspaper had this to say in his obituary: "There has been no time when the people of this county were not first in his affections. He possessed none but lovable qualities and our people have been the first to observe those grand traits of character. No pang ever crossed the heart of Shelby County's peaceful, prosperous course that a chord of sympathy was not touched in his generous heart. In his every triumph he looked to this people for first applause. In his every disappointment he first sought solace here. In our midst he passed from the simplicity and innocence of childhood to the achievement of national honor and worldwide fame. His course has been one in which we have all felt deep interest and pride."

EARLY SHELBY COUNTY

One hundred and forty years ago today Shelby County was a dense forest broken only here and there where the clearings around the cabins of the first settlers let in the sunshine. Across the center of the county, angling slightly from southeast to northwest, the Whetzel trace made a pattern of light. In the north part Abel Cole and party had hewed out a road from Connersville to the east bank of Blue River. This is called a state road in the first petition for a Shelby County road in the Commissioner's records. A large settlement in what is now Jackson township had probably come up Driftwood river to Big Blue and Flat Rock for waterways were the main avenues of travel.

Whether they came by foot along the Indian trails, paddled their boats by river or rode horseback through the forest some two hundred first residents of Shelby County made their way to a place close by where we are assembled today to celebrate the first Independence Day in the new county with a barbeque and picnic. Moreover they were to hear the report of the commissioners charged with locating the county seat.

The commissioners were George Bently of Harrison County, Benjamin Blythe of Dearborn County, Amos Boardman of Ripley County, Joshua Cobb of Delaware County, and Ebenezer Ward of Bartholomew County. They had been appointed by the state legislature the winter previous at their regular session then meeting in the state capitol at Corydon. They spent a few days looking over the sites that had been offered for donation by the pioneers that owned them. One site was at Marion, where a town had already been platted. The second was about three miles west of the site chosen and the seventy acres of which John Hendricks gave forty, John Walker gave twenty acres and James Davison ten acres.

The story has often been told of how the pioneers came from Marion, Freeport, Wray's settlement, Tuckers' and the Hawpatch for a day of social mingling and to eat the four pronged buck that had been killed by John Cherry and barbequed by Nimrod Gatewood with such other fare as was available in the wilderness.

The choice of the commissioners was not applauded by all present for Marion being the exact center of the county fully expected to be chosen. The county commissioners ordered the west half of the Hendricks tract surveyed into lots, streets and alleys. Abel Cole was appointed county agent and as such made the deeds of those sold. The first sale at auction was held in September, the

proceeds to be used to pay for public buildings and salaries of the public officials. John Hendricks and John Walker bought liberally of the lots sold. Mr. Walker later donated one he bought at the corner of Franklin and Pike streets for a schoolbuilding.

First records of the county commissioners show that they ordered one third of an acre of the Hendricks donation set aside for a church and schoolhouse this to be in the southeast corner of said tract.

They also allowed John Hendricks, who was a surveyor, \$10.50 for locating a state road from Shelbyville to Jennings County.

Jacob Shank was allowed pay for furnishing the court house. He was Shelbyville's first cabinet maker. It is interesting to know that we have in the museum a heavy walnut table that was the judge's bench in the first courthouse. It certainly must have been made by Jacob Shank.

The Shelby County Historical Society acknowledges with deep appreciation contributions from the following firms and individuals, which made the reconstruction of the Hendricks Cabin possible.

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The Farmers National Bank	Association of Shelbyville
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 Lee Amsden
 Ruth Keith

"He who knows only his own generation, remains always a child."
 — Cicero

In order to better appreciate your Hoosier Heritage join your local
 historical society and the Indiana Historical Society. Our history
 repays study and cultivation a hundred-fold.

The Shelby County Historical Society, Inc., (non-profit) is proud to sponsor this July 4th, 1962 Celebration and hope you will enjoy this Souvenir Program. Our Society presents many interesting historical programs throughout the year. We extend a hearty welcome to one and all to join us; annual membership: \$1.00, single; \$2.00, family. Mail checks to our Secretary. We are affiliated with the Indiana Historical Society and recommend membership in that organization.

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